## Message Text

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15

**ACTION NEA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /080 W

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R 140605Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5835

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 0190

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, SY

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON TENSIONS BETWEEN SYRIAN

COMMUNISTS AND SARG

REF: A. CAIRO 0398 B. 75 DAMASCUS 5160

1. WE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT DIR. IMMIGRATION
BRIG. FUAD ABU AL-KHAYR DETAINED BY SARG FOR PERMITTING
ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO CPS MEMBERS WHO ON SARG
LIST OF COMMUNISTS NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ABROAD.

WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SOME MEMBERS OF AIRPORT SECURITY/IMMIGRATION SECTION DETAINED FOR ALLOWING CPS MEMBERS TO LEAVE COUNTRY DESPITE PRESENCE THEIR NAMES ON THIS LIST. ADDITIONALLY, WE HEAR SOME COMMUNISTS ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE WHO DEPARTED SYRIA AT LEAST TEMPORARILY DETAINED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL. THIS GROUP REPORTEDLY INCLUDES PEOPLE'S COUNCIL DEPUTY YUSUF NIMR, BUT TOTAL NUMBER DETAINEES SUPPOSEDLY DOES NOT EXCEED HANDFUL.

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2. WE UNABLE CONFIRM ALLEGED "ABSENCE" OF BAKDASH FROM DAMASCUS IN ORDER ATTEND HAVANA CONFERENCE

AND HIS SUBSEQUENT "RETURN" REPORTED BY AL-AHRAM REF A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CPS DELEGATION TO HAVANA CONFERENCE NOT ALLOWED TO BOARD PLANE HERE TO ACCOMPANY BAATHIST DELEGATION FOLLOWING PROBLEMS MENTIONED REF B AND THAT SOME CPS MEMBERS THEN TRAVELING OUTSIDE SYRIA CONTACTED AND ORDERED TO HAVANA. BUT NONE OF OUR LOCAL SOURCES HAVE PLACED

BAKDASH HIMSELF IN HAVANA.

3. ONE SOURCE ADVISES THAT AS A RESULT OF SECURITY LAPSE IN PERMITTING CPS MEMBERS TO TRAVEL, SARG HAS DRASTICALLY REVISED ITS TRAVEL REGULATIONS. ALL SYRIAN CITIZENS DESIRING TRAVEL ABROAD MUST NOW

HAVE APPLICATION, PERSONALLY APPROVED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR ZAZA. IF TRUE, IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE SO CLUMSY A SYSTEM LASTING LONG. MURPHY

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